

Application No.: 09/515,914
Amendment dated: December 19, 2003
Reply to Office Action of: July 30, 2003

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003.

Claims in the case remain 97-131, of which only claim 97 is in an independent form.

Some cosmetic changes have been made in the single independent claim 97. Reconsideration is respectfully requested on the basis of the current form of the claims and the following considerations.

A number of distinctions exist between claim 97 and the primary reference D'Agostino (U.S. Patent No. 5,606,496). Specifically, the D'Agostino system does not accommodate plural vendor groups. Rather, the reference provides connections to "representative terminals 12---," which are central terminals or host terminals (D'Agostino, col. 5, line 66) for a single financial institution. The "representative terminals" are actually manually-operated terminals which maybe variously located for customer convenience (D'Agostino, col. 6, lines 7-9). Thus, no vendor selection is accomplished by the D'Agostino system.

The selectivity of the D'Agostino system involves a customer depressing a select button for the desired service, e.g. "insurance" (D'Agostino, col. 6, line 28-29). The operation involves routing, not stored data control. Conversely, Applicant's system involves selectivity based on a combination of "stored information and buyer input" (claim 97). Thus, a second explicit distinction is recited in claim 97.

Continuing, the D'Agostino system does not afford operation "in at least two modes" (claim 97). Rather, the D'Agostino system simply recites telephone links 16 (col. 6, line 15) and "data links 18 (which) may also be implemented using telephone links" (D'Agostino, col. 6, lines 23-24).

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Additionally, as recognized in the Office Action, D'Agostino "does not specify the video being freeze-frame or high resolution" (Office Action page 4). Essentially, the Office Action seeks to bridge the inadequacy with the Smith patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,450,123). However, Smith is inadequate in that regard.

The Smith patent is directed to a system for combining audio and video signals for transmission. While mention is made of using "a remote video camera to pick up real time events" (Smith, col. 3, line 27) the disclosure offers no suggestion of a combination with a system likened to D'Agostino nor the integrated selectivity of Applicant's system.

In view of the present form of the claims, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration with a view toward allowance.

Respectfully, Applicant urges the Examiner to reconsider the rejections in view of the above arguments.

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Favorable consideration and allowance of the claims pending here is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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